

Application No. 10/058,116

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 9-15 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claim 8 has been canceled and claim 9 has been amended to more fully distinguish the invention of the claim over the teachings of the prior art references cited against this claim.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to the claims may be found in the original specification, claims and Figures. In particular, support for the language added to claim 9 may be found at, for example, Figs. 4(b) and 6(b).

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that the allowance of claims 1-5 has been maintained.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First, Second and Fourth Paragraphs

Claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first, second and fourth paragraphs. Specifically, the Patent Office alleged that it is unclear how claims 11-13 and 15 further limit the "semiconductor device" of claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Patent Office suggested that claim 11 be written in independent form including all the limitations of claims 1 and 11; claim 12 be rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 1, 11 and 12; claim 13 be rewritten in independent form including the

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limitations of claim 1; and that claim 15 be rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 11, 12 and 15. This request is not appropriate in that (1) the claims are already in a format accepted under U.S. practice and (2) the request requires Applicants to incur undue expense in adding additional independent claims.

A dependent claim is proper under the fourth paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 if the dependent claim cannot be infringed without also infringing the claims from which it depends. See MPEP §608.01(n)(iii). As discussed in the September 26 Amendment, each of claims 11-13 and 15 is proper because each further limits the subject matter of the claims from which each respectively depends.

Claim 11 properly depends from claim 1 and thus already includes the limitations of claim 1. Claim 12 properly depends from claim 11 which depends from claim 1. Thus, claim 12 already includes the limitations of claims 1 and 11. Claim 13 properly depends from claim 1 and thus already includes the limitations of claim 1. Claim 15 properly depends from claim 12 which depends from claim 11 which depends from claim 1. Thus claim 15 already includes the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 12.

Further, as each of claims 11-13 and 15, either directly or indirectly, depend from an allowed claim, Applicant submits each of claims 11-13 and 15 should also be allowed.

The Patent Office also alleges that "circuit board" in claims 11 and 12, and "shift registers, level shifters, buffer circuits, and analog switches" in claim 13 are not clearly described so as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the claimed inventions. The Patent Office further alleges that the specification does not clearly describe the circuit board, shift registers, level shifters, buffer circuits, and analog switches so as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the claimed invention.

As discussed in the September 26, 2003 Amendment, compliance with the first paragraph of §112 is adjudged from the perspective of the person skilled in the pertinent art,

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(*In re Smith*, 481 F.2d 910, 914, 178 USPQ 620, 624 (CCPA 1973)) and an inventor need not explain every detail since he is speaking to those skilled in the art (*In re Howarth*, 654 F.2d 103, 105, 210 USPQ 689, 691 (CCPA 1981)).

Applicant submits that because the terms "circuit board, shift register, level shifters, buffer circuits and analog switches" are each terms commonly known in the art, further narrative description or illustration in the specification is neither required nor necessary. For example, the skilled artisan would have no trouble fabricating a circuit board including the semiconductor of claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) (b) and (e)

Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), (b) and (e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,084,248 (Inoue). Specifically, the Patent Office refers to Figs. 16-18 and 24 of Inoue. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Claim 9 recites, in part, a semiconductor device comprising a semiconductor film having a plurality of source regions and drain regions, and a gate electrode formed on the gate insulating film, the regions extending toward at least one of the plurality of source regions and drain regions from the gate electrode and separating adjacent source regions and adjacent drain regions.

Applicant submits that claim 9 was amended as suggested by the Examiner. More specifically, during the September 22, 2003 interview with Examiner Munson, the Examiner stated that amending claim 9 to require separation between the plurality of regions may be sufficient to overcome the rejection of claim 9. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 9, as acknowledged by the Patent Office, is in condition for allowance.

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Further, as discussed in the September 26, 2003 Amendment with respect to claim 10, because claim 1 has been allowed (from which claim 10 depends), and claim 10 adds a limitation to allowed claim 1, claim 10 is also allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Inoue fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 9-10. Applicant further submits that at least claim 10 is allowable as being dependent on allowed claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Inoue. Specifically, the Patent Office alleged that it would have been obvious that the channel region 30 of Inoue (Figs. 8A and 8B) is an "intrinsic semiconductor which is not doped with dopant." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 has been cancelled.

As discussed above, Inoue fails to teach or suggest a semiconductor device comprising a semiconductor film having a plurality of source regions and drain regions, and a gate electrode formed on the gate insulating film, the regions extending toward at least one of the plurality of source regions and drain regions from the gate electrode and separating adjacent source regions and adjacent drain regions, as recited by claim 9.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Inoue would not have led one of ordinary skill in the art to the invention of claim 9.

Further, as discussed above, claim 10 depends from allowed claim 1. Accordingly, claim 10 should also be allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are thus respectfully requested.


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V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 and 9-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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